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CLAIMS

1. A method of mounting a dielectric cable on an overhead power line support structure, comprising:
placing a sleeve around a mandrel, the mandrel defining an aperture therethrough to receive a dielectric cable;

locating the mandrel and sleeve in fixed relation to the power line support structure;

10 urging the dielectric cable through the aperture in the mandrel;

withdrawing the mandrel from the sleeve when the dielectric cable has been urged through the aperture in the mandrel, such that the sleeve encases the

15 dielectric cable; and

removing the mandrel from the dielectric cable.

2. The method of claim 1, in which the sleeve is formed of a hydrophobic elastomer, such that
20 withdrawal of the mandrel from the sleeve causes the sleeve elastically to grip the dielectric cable.

Summary
3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, in which the mandrel and sleeve are located immediately adjacent to
25 the power line support structure.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

supporting the dielectric cable from the power
30 line support structure with a suspension member, a first end thereof being affixed to the power line support structure, and a second thereof being affixed round the surface of the dielectric cable.

35 5. The method of claim 4, in which the sleeve

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encases the second end of the suspension member once the mandrel is withdrawn from the sleeve.

6. An arrangement comprising:

5 a power line support structure substantially at ground potential;

10 a dielectric cable suspended from the support structure and located within an electric field, the surface of the dielectric cable being resistant to electrical tracking; and

a suspension member suspending the dielectric cable from the support structure,

15 the suspension member having a insulating linkage arranged in series between the dielectric cable and the support structure, the surface of the insulating linkage being resistant to electrical tracking and adapted to limit the leakage current from the dielectric cable to ground potential, such that any
20 dry band arcing occurring at the dielectric cable or the insulating linkage contains insufficient energy to damage the said dielectric cable or insulating linkage.

25 7. The arrangement of Claim 6, in which the surface of the insulating linkage is adapted to limit the leakage current from the dielectric cable to ground to no more than 1mA.

30 8. The arrangement of Claim 7, in which the surface of the insulating linkage is adapted to limit the leakage current from the dielectric cable to ground to no more than 0.1mA.

35 9. The arrangement of any one of Claims 6 to 8, in which the surface of the insulating linkage is

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ablative and renewable.

10. The arrangement of any one of Claims 6 to 9, in which the insulating linkage is at least partly formed from silicone.

11. The arrangement of any of Claims 6 to 10, in which the surface of the insulating linkage is shedded.

12. The use of silicone in an insulating linkage for suspending a dielectric cable to limit leakage current from the dielectric cable to ground potential when the dielectric cable is located in an electric field.

13. The use of silicone as an insulating linkage which forms at least a part of a surface of a suspension member for suspending a dielectric cable from a power line support structure substantially at ground potential, to limit the leakage current from the dielectric cable to ground potential when the dielectric cable is located in an electric field such that any dry band arcing occurring at the dielectric cable or the insulating linkage contains insufficient energy to damage the said dielectric cable or insulating linkage.

14. An arrangement comprising:

a power line support structure substantially at ground potential;

a dielectric cable suspended from the support structure and located within an electric field, the surface of the dielectric cable being resistant to electrical tracking; and

a suspension member suspending the dielectric

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cable from the support structure,

the suspension member having a insulating linkage arranged in series between the dielectric cable and the support structure, the surface of the insulating linkage being resistant to electrical tracking and substantially more hydrophobic than the surface of the dielectric cable such that any dry band arcing preferentially occurs at the insulating rather than the dielectric cable.

15. A method of supporting a dielectric cable adjacent an overhead power line, comprising the steps of:

supporting the power line from a support structure substantially at ground potential;

suspending a dielectric cable from the support structure using a suspension member such that the dielectric cable is located within an electric field generated by the power line, the surface of the dielectric cable being resistant to electrical tracking; and

providing an insulating linkage within the suspension member, the insulating linkage being in series between the dielectric cable and the support structure, the surface of the insulating linkage being resistant to electrical tracking and adapted to limit the leakage current from the dielectric cable to ground potential, such that any dry band arcing occurring at the dielectric cable or the insulating linkage contains insufficient energy to damage the said dielectric cable or insulating linkage.

16. A method of supporting a dielectric cable adjacent an overhead power line, comprising the steps of:

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supporting the power line from a support structure substantially at ground potential;

5 suspending a dielectric cable from the support structure using a suspension member such that the dielectric cable is located within an electric field generated by the power line, the surface of the dielectric cable being resistant to electrical tracking; and

10 providing an insulating linkage within the suspension member, the insulating linkage being in series between the dielectric cable and the support structure, the surface of the insulating linkage being resistant to electrical tracking and substantially more hydrophobic than the surface of the dielectric
15 cable such that any dry band arcing preferentially occurs at the insulating linkage rather than the dielectric cable.

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